



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Making a Difference in Mississippi

“We know that 3- and 4-year-olds who go to high-quality preschools—including our best Head Start programs— are **less likely to repeat a grade**; they’re **less likely to need special education**; they’re **more likely to graduate** from high school than the peers who did not get these services. And so this makes early education one of our best investments in America’s future.”

– President Barack Obama, November 8, 2011

Child Care in Mississippi:

Average Monthly Children Served – 33,900
Amount of Federal Funds- \$56,171,496
Funds Spent on Quality- \$8,649,103
Number of Providers Receiving Funds– 8,110
Number of Tribal Grantees–1

The Office of Child Care (OCC), in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, administers the \$5 billion Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. OCC works with state, territory, and tribal governments to provide support for low-income, working families in finding affordable, high-quality child care.

More than 12 million American children rely on child care to support their healthy development and school success. Of these, more than 1.6 million children receive a child care subsidy from the CCDF program each month.

Additionally, states, territories, and tribes annually spend \$1 billion to support child care quality improvement. These funds—spent on projects like consumer education, enhancing care for infants and toddlers, and training the child care workforce—result in better learning environments and more effective caregivers in child care centers and family child care homes across the country.

Tribal grantee numbers are current as of August 2012. All other child care data are from FFY2010.

Head Start in Mississippi:

Number of Children Served– 27,544
Amount of Federal Funds- \$174,610,322
Number of Grantees in the State– 21
Number of Staff in the State-6,523

Head Start is a federal program that promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to 5 from low-income families. Head Start programs provide a learning environment that supports children's growth, and they provide comprehensive services to enrolled children and their families. The services include health, nutrition, social services and other services, in addition to education and cognitive development services.

Head Start services are designed to be responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural and linguistic heritage. Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher.

Over a million children are served by Head Start programs every year, including children in every U.S. state and territory and in American Indian and Alaskan Native communities.

Since 1965, nearly 30 million low-income children and their families have received these comprehensive services to increase their school readiness.